

## **Expression of Interest – The British Antarctic Survey – Marine Contingency Workers**

(25 June 2018)

### **Background to the British Antarctic Survey**

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a Research Council specialising in polar logistics and scientific research.

The strategic plan is as follows: -

#### **Our Vision**

To be a world-leading centre for polar science and polar operations, addressing issues of global importance and helping society adapt to a changing world.

#### **Our Mission**

BAS is a research-driven organisation recognised for:

- Commitment to excellence in science
- Operational professionalism and innovation in everything we do
- A partner of choice for science, operations and business wherever polar expertise can be applied
- Safely delivering complex operations in extreme environments
- Commitment to environmental stewardship of the polar regions
- Developing our staff to reach their full potential
- Sustaining an active and influential presence in Antarctica on behalf of the UK, and playing a leadership role in Antarctic affairs
- Engagement with policy-makers, government and the public

### **Purpose of this Expression of Interest.**

UK Shared Business Services Ltd on behalf of the Contracting Authority are looking to put a contract in place for Marine Contingency Workers for the British Antarctic Survey.

BAS will be tendering their Marine Contingency Workers services later this year. BAS currently have two research vessels – RRS Ernest Shackleton and RRS James Clark Ross. The future of BAS vessels will see the phasing out of the RRS Ernest Shackleton and RRS James Clark Ross in July 2019 and July 2020 respectively, and the introduction of the new polar research vessel, RRS Sir David Attenborough scheduled to enter service in 2019.

This new research platform will transform how ship-borne science is conducted in the Polar Regions. The commissioning of the RRS Sir David Attenborough is part of a major Government polar infrastructure investment programme designed to keep Britain at the forefront of world-leading research in Antarctica and the Arctic.

Marine contingency workers must be able to cover BAS mariners who are unavailable to join the vessels. BAS vessels must meet the minimum staffing requirement in order to sail. Any delays to planned departures will be detrimental to key science.

A supplier day will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July where the representatives of BAS look forward to holding positive and engaging discussions with suppliers who share the passion for world leading polar science and research.

These representatives look forward to discussing how potential suppliers can add value to this important area and thereby helping us to deliver frontier science.

Potential suppliers will also have the opportunity to attend the site and to discuss with BAS the proposed scope and deliverables of this contract.

### **Marine Contingency Workers Strategy – Key Business Requirements**

This document highlights how marine contingency workers must operate in a science driven environment at BAS. As such, it describes certain key service features which directly affect the mission and strategy of BAS and include:

- Assurance of Supply
- Quality
- Service
- Cost
- Innovation
- Regulation

### **Business Requirement Analysis**

As part of this ongoing strategy, BAS want to ensure that all suppliers have an in depth understanding of how the business needs will be assessed and specified. Special attention should be paid to those elements which are of key importance to this ongoing contract and as illustrated below.

#### Assurance of Supply

In the next two years, demand for marine contingency workers will increase significantly as staff move from their current ships to the RRS Sir David Attenborough. There will be a period from November 2018 until July 2020 where three vessels will be in service. Keeping up with the demands of BAS will be vital in supporting key science.

There are two crews per vessel. The RRS Ernest Shackleton has 22 mariners per crew, RRS James Clark Ross has 29 mariners per crew and the RRS Sir David Attenborough will have 30 mariners per crew.

Following the phasing out of RRS Ernest Shackleton and RRS James Clark Ross, there may be a reduction in marine contingency workers. As such, it is important to highlight that there is likely a change in demand in the future.

#### Quality

All supplied mariners must meet the requirements of the job role and must hold the relevant certification in order to work our British Antarctic Survey's vessels including medical certification (ENG1) and passport.

Supplied mariners will be deployed to the Arctic and the Antarctic and therefore must complete BAS Medical Unit (BASMU) medical checks to ensure they are fit for deployment. Medical checks will need to have the final sign off by BASMU before deployment.

#### Regulatory - MLC Certificate

All Recruitment and Placement Agencies must have Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) Certification on or before the commencement of the contract, documentary evidence will be required during the tender process. The validity of the certificate must be upheld throughout its contract with BAS.

Evidence must be supplied.

An outline agenda for these visits can be seen below.

#### **Agenda**

The visit will be held on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June**. This is the agenda:-

- Introductions (5 mins)
- Discussion around the following areas (30 minutes):
  - Method for delivery of specific business requirements
  - Approach to ensuring high level of customer service
  - Suitable cost models
  - Account management approach
  - Example KPIs
  - Description of how value can be added to the service
  - Innovation opportunities
  - Proposal to execute the service strategy
- Closing question and answer session (20 minutes)
- Next steps – British Antarctic Survey (5 minutes)

Individual dates and times will be provided for those suppliers that register their interest. Please contact UK SBS on [professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk](mailto:professionalservices@uksbs.co.uk) to book a slot on the pre-market engagement day.

BAS look forward to welcoming you to their offices. Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to hear about exciting research and join our passion for environmental research.

The pre-market engagement sessions will be used for information gathering only, to inform the procurement process and strategy, and to aid in the development of the specification and tender documentation. Responding to this notice does not commit the contracting authority or respondents to a future procurement, nor provide any process exemptions or preferential treatment to any parties expressing an interest. The Contracting Authority will not be liable for costs incurred by any interested party in participating in this exercise.

#### **Outcome and Aims for the day**

BAS aim to:-

- Understand the market in more detail
- Share our business requirements

- Assess potential opportunities for added value
- Identify potential refinements to the business requirements
- Discuss proposed contracting strategy

Depending on the outcome of this pre market engagement day BAS and UK SBS will be looking to issue this tender in August 2018.

The total contract duration is still being agreed, however this is likely to be 3 years with the **option** to extend for one year.

BAS look forward to meeting you soon.