

## **Voluntary Transparency Notice – 709378450 Autonomy Software Development and Maintenance**

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 continued support and development of SeeByte's suite of proprietary 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 vehicles (both surface and underwater).

This requirement is a direct continuation of the same services previously procured by the MoD, initially under the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory's Science & Technology (S&T) programme and more recently by MHC. Ensuring contractual cover to facilitate the continuing support and evolutionary development of this software is critical to maintaining the Royal Navy's existing capability. Given the history of the development of this software by SeeByte Limited, integrated into Royal Navy autonomous vehicles, there is no other reasonable alternative software available on the market that would meet the MoD's continuing requirements.