



Ministry of Defence

Army HQ BFG Commercial Team

Contract No: CB/BFG/0120

For:

Supply of Industrial Gases to British Forces Germany (BFG)

Between the Secretary of State for Defence of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

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MOD Conditions for the Supply of Goods and Associated Services:

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A General Contract Provisions

A1. Interpretation

- a. The defined terms in the Contract shall be as set out in Schedule 1.
- b. Unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (1) The singular includes the plural and vice versa, and the masculine includes the feminine and vice versa.
 - (2) The words "include", "includes", "including" and "included" are to be construed as if they were immediately followed by the words "without limitation", except where explicitly stated otherwise.
 - (3) The expression "person" means any individual, firm, body corporate, unincorporated association or partnership, government, state or agency of a state or joint venture.
 - (4) References to any statute, enactment, order, regulation, or other similar instrument shall be construed as a reference to the statute, enactment, order, regulation, or instrument as amended, supplemented, replaced or consolidated by any subsequent statute, enactment, order, regulation, or instrument.
 - (5) The heading to any Contract provision shall not affect the interpretation of that provision.
 - (6) Any decision, act or thing which the Authority is required or authorised to take or do under the Contract may be taken or done only by the person (or their nominated deputy) authorised in Schedule 3 (Contract Data Sheet) to take or do that decision, act, or thing on behalf of the Authority.
 - (7) Unless excluded within the Conditions of the Contract or required by law, references to submission of documents in writing shall include electronic submission.

A2. Amendments to Contract

- a. Except as provided in condition F4 all amendments to this Contract shall be serially numbered, in writing, issued only by the Authority's Representative (Commercial), and agreed by both Parties.
- b. Where the Authority or the Contractor wishes to introduce a change which is not minor or which is likely to involve a change to the Contract Price, the provisions of Schedule 4 (Change Process) shall apply. The Contractor shall not carry out any work until any necessary change to the Contract Price has been agreed and a written amendment in accordance with clause A2.a above has been issued.

A3. Variations to Specification

- a. The Authority's Representative may, by Notice (following consultation with the Contractor as necessary), alter the Specification as from a date agreed by both Parties and to the extent specified by the Authority, provided that any such variations shall be limited to the extent that they do not alter the fit, form, function or characteristics of the Contractor Deliverables to be supplied under the Contract. The Contractor shall ensure that the Contractor Deliverables take account of any such variations. Such variations shall not require formal amendment of the Contract in accordance with the process set out in condition A2 (Amendments to Contract) and shall be implemented upon receipt, or at the date specified in the Authority's Notice, unless otherwise specified.

- b. Any variations that cause a change to:
- (1) fit, form, function or characteristics of the Contractor Deliverables;
 - (2) the cost;
 - (3) Delivery Dates;
 - (4) the period required for the production or completion; or
 - (5) other work caused by the alteration,

shall be the subject to condition A2 (Amendments to Contract). Each amendment under condition A2 shall be classed as a formal change.

A4. Precedence

- a. If there is any inconsistency between the different provisions of the Contract the inconsistency shall be resolved according to the following descending order of precedence:
- (1) Sections A – L of the Conditions of the Contract shall be given equal precedence with Schedule 1 (Definitions of Contract) and , Schedule 3 (Contract Data Sheet);
 - (2) Schedule 2 (Schedule of Requirements) and Schedule 8 (Acceptance Procedure);
 - (3) the remaining Schedules; and
 - (4) any other documents expressly referred to in the Contract.
- b. If either Party becomes aware of any inconsistency, within or between the documents referred to in clause A4.a such Party shall notify the other Party forthwith and the Parties will seek to resolve that inconsistency on the basis of the order of precedence set out in clause A4.a. above. Where the Parties fail to reach agreement, and if either Party considers the inconsistency to be material to its rights and obligations under the Contract, then the matter will be referred to the dispute resolution procedure in accordance with condition A21 (Dispute Resolution).

A5. Severability

If any provision of the Contract is held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable to any extent then:

- a. such provision shall (to the extent that it is invalid, illegal or unenforceable) be given no effect and shall be deemed not to be included in the Contract but without invalidating any of the remaining provisions of the Contract; and
- b. the Parties shall use all reasonable endeavours to replace the invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision by a valid, legal and enforceable substitute provision the effect of which is as close as possible to the intended effect of the invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision.

A6. Assignment of Contract

Neither Party shall be entitled to assign the Contract (or any part thereof) without the prior written consent of the other Party.

A7. Waiver

- a. No act or omission of either Party shall by itself amount to a waiver of any right or remedy unless expressly stated by that Party in writing. In particular, no reasonable delay in exercising any right or remedy shall by itself constitute a waiver of that right or remedy.
- b. No waiver in respect of any right or remedy shall operate as a waiver in respect of any other right or remedy.

A8. Third Party Rights

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary elsewhere in the Contract, no right is granted to any person who is not a Party to the Contract to enforce any term of the Contract in their own right and the Parties to the Contract declare that they have no intention to grant any such right.

A9. Governing Law

- a. Subject to clause A9.d, the Contract shall be considered as a contract made in England and subject to English Law.
- b. Subject to clause A9.d and A21 (Dispute Resolution) and without prejudice to the dispute resolution process set out therein, each Party submits and agrees to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England to resolve, and the laws of England to govern, any actions proceedings, controversy or claim of whatever nature arising out of or relating to the Contract or breach thereof.
- c. Subject to clause A9.d any dispute arising out of or in connection with the Contract shall be determined within the English jurisdiction and to the exclusion of all other jurisdictions save that other jurisdictions may apply solely for the purpose of giving effect to this clause A9 and for the enforcement of any judgment, order or award given under English jurisdiction.
- d. If the Parties agree pursuant to the Contract that Scots Law should apply then the following amendments shall apply to the Contract:

- (1) Clause A9.a, A9.b and A9.c shall be amended to read:

"a. The Contract shall be considered as a contract made in Scotland and subject to Scots Law.

b. Subject to clause A21 (Dispute Resolution) and without prejudice to the dispute resolution process set out therein, each Party submits and agrees to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Scotland to resolve, and the laws of Scotland to govern, any actions, proceedings, controversy or claim of whatever nature arising out of or relating to the Contract or breach thereof.

c. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the Contract shall be determined within the Scottish jurisdiction and to the exclusion of all other jurisdictions save that other jurisdictions may apply solely for the purpose of giving effect to this clause A9 and for the enforcement of any judgment, order or award given under Scottish jurisdiction."

- (2) Clause A21.b shall be amended to read:

"In the event that the dispute or claim is not resolved pursuant to clause A21.a the dispute shall be referred to arbitration. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties, the arbitration and this clause A21.b shall be governed by the Arbitration (Scotland) Act 2010. The seat of the arbitration shall be Scotland. For the avoidance of doubt, for the purpose of arbitration the tribunal shall have the power to make provisional awards pursuant to Rule 53 of the Scottish Arbitration Rules, as set out in Schedule 1 to the Arbitration (Scotland) Act 2010."

e. Each Party warrants to each other that entry into the Contract does not, and the performance of the Contract will not, in any way violate or conflict with any provision of law, statute, rule, regulation, judgement, writ, injunction, decree or order applicable to it. Each Party also warrants that the Contract does not conflict with or result in a breach or termination of any provision of, or constitute a default under, any mortgage, contract or other liability, charge or encumbrance upon any of its properties or other assets.

f. Each Party agrees with each other Party that the provisions of this clause A9 shall survive any termination of the Contract for any reason whatsoever and shall remain fully enforceable as between the Parties notwithstanding such a termination.

g. Where the Contractor's place of business is not in England or Wales (or Scotland where the Parties agree pursuant to this Contract that Scots Law should apply), the Contractor irrevocably appoints the solicitors or other persons in England and Wales (or Scotland where the Parties agree pursuant to the Contract that Scots Law should apply) detailed in Schedule 3 (Contract Data Sheet) as its agents to accept on its behalf service of all process and other documents of whatever description to be served on the Contractor in connection with any litigation or arbitration within the English jurisdiction (or Scottish jurisdiction where the Parties agree pursuant to this Contract that Scots Law should apply) arising out of or relating to the Contract or any issue connected therewith.

A10. Entire Agreement

This Contract constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the subject matter of the Contract. The Contract supersedes, and neither Party has relied upon, any prior negotiations, representations and undertakings, whether written or oral, except that this condition shall not exclude liability in respect of any fraudulent misrepresentation.

A11. Disclosure of Information

a. Subject to clauses A11.d, A11.e and A11.h each Party:

- (1) shall treat in confidence all Information it receives from the other;
- (2) shall not disclose any of that Information to any third party without the prior written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not unreasonably be withheld, except that the Contractor may disclose Information in confidence, without prior consent, to such persons and to such extent as may be necessary for the performance of the Contract;
- (3) shall not use any of that Information otherwise than for the purpose of the Contract; and
- (4) shall not copy any of that Information except to the extent necessary for the purpose of exercising its rights of use and disclosure under the Contract.

b. The Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions necessary to ensure that all Information disclosed to the Contractor by or on behalf of the Authority under or in connection with the Contract:

- (1) is disclosed to its employees and Subcontractors, only to the extent necessary for the performance of the Contract; and
- (2) is treated in confidence by them and not disclosed except with the prior written consent of the Authority or used otherwise than for the purpose of performing work or having work performed for the Authority under the Contract or any subcontract.

c. The Contractor shall ensure that its employees are aware of the Contractor's arrangements for discharging the obligations at clauses A11.a and A11.b before receiving Information and shall take such steps as may be reasonably practical to enforce such arrangements.

d. Clauses A11.a and A11.b shall not apply to any Information to the extent that either Party:

- (1) exercises rights of use or disclosure granted otherwise than in consequence of, or under, the Contract;
- (2) has the right to use or disclose the Information in accordance with other Conditions of the Contract; or
- (3) can show:
 - (a) that the Information was or has become published or publicly available for use otherwise than in breach of any provision of the Contract or any other agreement between the Parties;

(b) that the Information was already known to it (without restrictions on disclosure or use) prior to receiving the Information under or in connection with the Contract;

(c) that the Information was received without restriction on further disclosure from a third party which lawfully acquired the Information without any restriction on disclosure; or

(d) from its records that the same Information was derived independently of that received under or in connection with the Contract;

provided that the relationship to any other Information is not revealed.

e. Neither Party shall be in breach of this condition where it can show that any disclosure of Information was made solely and to the extent necessary to comply with a statutory, judicial or parliamentary obligation. Where such a disclosure is made, the Party making the disclosure shall ensure that the recipient of the Information is made aware of and asked to respect its confidentiality. Such disclosure shall in no way diminish the obligations of the Parties under this condition.

f. The Authority may disclose the Information:

(1) on a confidential basis to any central government body for any proper purpose of the Authority or of the relevant central government body, which shall include: disclosure to the Cabinet Office and / or HM Treasury for the purpose of ensuring effective cross-Government procurement processes, including value for money and related purposes;

(2) to Parliament and Parliamentary Committees or if required by any Parliamentary reporting requirement;

(3) to the extent that the Authority (acting reasonably) deems disclosure necessary or appropriate in the course of carrying out its public functions;

(4) on a confidential basis to a professional adviser, consultant or other person engaged by any of the entities defined in Schedule 1 (including benchmarking organisations) for any purpose relating to or connected with this Contract;

(5) on a confidential basis for the purpose of the exercise of its rights under the Contract; or

(6) on a confidential basis to a proposed body in connection with any assignment, novation or disposal of any of its rights, obligations or liabilities under the Contract;

and for the purposes of the foregoing, references to disclosure on a confidential basis shall mean disclosure subject to a confidentiality agreement or arrangement containing terms no less stringent than those placed on the Authority under this condition.

g. Before sharing any Information in accordance with sub-clause A11.f above, the Authority may redact the Information. Any decision to redact information made by the Authority shall be final.

h. The Authority shall not be in breach of the Contract where disclosure of Information is made solely and to the extent necessary to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act") or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the "Regulations"). To the extent permitted by the time for compliance under the Act or the Regulations, the Authority shall consult the Contractor where the Authority is considering the disclosure of Information under the Act or the Regulations and, in any event, shall provide prior notification to the Contractor of any decision to disclose the Information. The Contractor acknowledges and accepts that its representations on disclosure during consultation may not be determinative and that the decision whether to disclose Information in order to comply with the Act or the Regulations is a matter in which the Authority shall exercise its own discretion, subject always to the provisions of the Act or the Regulations.

- i. Nothing in this condition shall affect the Parties' obligations of confidentiality where Information is disclosed orally in confidence.

A12. Publicity and Communications with the Media

The Contractor shall not and shall ensure that any employee or Subcontractor shall not communicate with representatives of the press, television, radio or other media on any matter concerning the Contract unless the Authority has given its prior written consent or as otherwise required to comply with Legislation.

A13. Protection of Personal Data

In the performance of the Contract, both Parties shall comply with their obligations as a data controller, as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998.

A14. Transparency

- a. Subject to clause A14.b but notwithstanding condition A11 (Disclosure of Information), the Contractor understands that the Authority may publish the Transparency Information to the general public. The Contractor shall assist and cooperate with the Authority to enable the Authority to publish the Transparency Information.
- b. Before publishing the Transparency Information to the general public in accordance with clause A14.a, the Authority shall redact any Information that would be exempt from disclosure if it was the subject of a request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and any Information which has been acknowledged by the Authority at Schedule 9 – Contractor Commercially Sensitive Information.
- c. The Authority may consult with the Contractor before redacting any Information from the Transparency Information in accordance with clause A14.b. The Contractor acknowledges and accepts that its representations on redactions during consultation may not be determinative and that the decision whether to redact Information is a matter in which the Authority shall exercise its own discretion, subject always to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this condition A14 shall affect the Contractor's rights at law.

A15. Equality

- a. The Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate either directly or indirectly on the grounds of age, disability, gender (including re-assignment), sex or sexual orientation, marital status (including civil partnerships), pregnancy and maternity, race, or religion or belief.
- b. Without prejudice to the generality of the obligation in clause A15.a, the Contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the Equality Act 2010 or other relevant or equivalent legislation in the country where the Contract is being performed.
- c. The Contractor agrees to take reasonable efforts to secure the observance of the provisions of this condition A15 by any of its employees, agents, or other persons acting under its direction or Control who are engaged in the performance of the Contract.
- d. The Contractor agrees to take reasonable efforts to reflect this condition A15 in any subcontract that it enters into to satisfy the requirements of the Contract and to require its Subcontractors to reflect this condition A15 in their subcontracts that they enter into to satisfy the requirements of the Contract.

A16. Child Labour and Employment Law

- a. In performing the Contract, the Contractor shall comply in all material respects with Child Labour Legislation and applicable employment legislation of those jurisdiction(s) where the Contract is being performed.

- b. The Contractor agrees to use reasonable efforts to reflect this Condition in any subcontract that it enters into to satisfy the requirements of the Contract and to require its Subcontractors to reflect this Condition in their subcontracts that they enter into to satisfy the requirements of the Contract.

A17. Subcontracting

- a. Subcontracting any part of the Contract shall not relieve the Contractor of any obligation, duty or liability attributable to the Contractor under the Contract.
- b. The Contractor shall ensure, to the extent that they are applicable, that the Conditions of the Contract are reflected in any subcontracts for any part of the Contractor Deliverables.
- c. In all circumstances the Contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts in relation to this Contract include:
- (1) a requirement that either party to the subcontract may release to the Authority any of those parts of the subcontract documentation as are necessary to demonstrate the Contractor's compliance with the provisions of the Contract and that any such release shall not amount to a breach of any provision of confidentiality contained within the subcontract; and
 - (2) a term which requires payment to be made to the Subcontractor within a specified period not exceeding thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of a valid invoice as defined by the subcontract requirements; and
 - (3) Condition A16 (Child Labour and Employment Law) of the Contract; and
 - (4) Condition B9 (Timber and Wood-Derived Products) of the Contract.
- d. Where the Contractor places any subcontract with a value of more than £50,000 in connection with this Contract, it shall ensure that it has the right to terminate that subcontract for convenience, in the event that the Authority exercises its right to terminate this Contract under Condition A22 (Termination for Convenience), with twenty (20) Business Days notice (or such other notice period as the Authority shall give under this Contract).
- e. When placing subcontracts, the Contractor is asked to give consideration, as far as possible, to placing work on a competitive basis with Subcontractors that are Supported Businesses. The Contractor can find details of Supported Businesses in the United Kingdom on the Supported Business Directory that is British Association for Supported Employment at Unit 4, 200 Bury Road, 'Tottington, Lancashire BL8 3DX (Telephone: 01204 880733) or <http://business.base-uk.org/procurement>.
- f. The Contractor shall secure from any Subcontractor, the prompt notification to the Authority of the Information required by clause D1.a of condition D1 (Third Party Intellectual Property – Rights and Restrictions). On receipt of any such notification the Authority shall issue a written authorisation to the Subcontractor in accordance with clause D1.g. Any such authorisation shall always be subject to clauses D1.j, D1.k and D1.n as though the Subcontractor was the Contractor. If any claim or action relevant to such authorisation arises, it shall be promptly notified to the Authority. The Contractor is not authorised to enter into any substantive correspondence in such matter nor in any way to act on behalf of the Authority in such claim or action. Any arrangement between the Contractor and Subcontractor to enable the Contractor to underwrite their indemnities to the Authority under this Condition is a matter between the Contractor and the Subcontractor.
- g. Where the Contractor subcontracts work under the Contract, which is likely to be subject to foreign export control, the Contractor shall use reasonable endeavours to incorporate in each subcontract the terms set out in Schedule 5 to this Contract. Where it is not practicable to include the terms set out in Schedule 5, the Contractor shall report that fact and the circumstances to the Authority.