



DEVON & SOMERSET

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS, ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

REF: DS 072-11

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
SCOPE OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT.....	2
PROCUREMENT PROCESS	3
FRAMEWORK CONTRACTORS.....	3
BENEFITS OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT.....	4
ROLE OF DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	5

INTRODUCTION

The Fire Service in the UK has, in the past, been able to access a Framework Agreement for the provision of Breathing Apparatus, associated equipment and services which was procured and managed by Firebuy and subsequently novated to The Consortium Fire and Rescue.

That Framework Agreement expired on 31st March 2012 and Firebuy, which operated as a publically funded procurement hub for the Fire and Rescue Services in England, was disbanded in April 2011.

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) established a User Intelligence Group, on a task and finish basis, which reviewed the User requirements and technical Specification for Self-contained Breathing Apparatus, associated equipment and services, and which was then turned into a procurement specification. The User Intelligence Group drew on technical, financial, legal, health and safety, equalities & diversity, research and representative body input as necessary from member Fire and Rescue Services and other CFOA or affiliated groups.

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority agreed to take the role of 'lead authority' to establish the Framework Agreement for Self-contained Breathing Apparatus, associated equipment and services on behalf of the Participating Services and Participating Customers and conducted a tendering exercise in

accordance with the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended), following the restricted tender procedure.

SCOPE OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Following a period of consultation across the UK Fire and Rescue Services it was established that approximately 10 Services might require access to a Framework Agreement over the next four years for the purpose of replacing their Breathing Apparatus and that other Fire and Rescue Services may require access for new or additional cylinders, maintenance services, telemetry or spare parts.

The Framework Agreement, accordingly, covers a number of Lots:

- Breathing Apparatus with options for
 - Purchase – with/without maintenance
 - Lease - with/without maintenance

- Cylinders with options for
 - Purchase with/without maintenance
 - Lease with/without maintenance
 - Re-valving & re-testing of existing cylinders

- Telemetry
 - Purchase – with/without maintenance
 - Lease - with/without maintenance

- Maintenance services for existing breathing apparatus and/or cylinders

- Replacement/spare parts for the purposes of in-house repair and maintenance

The goods and services provided under the Framework Agreement conform to the relevant British (or equivalent) standard.

The Framework Agreement is available to access by the Participating Services which shall include the Fire and Rescue Authorities in England, as defined by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and by Participating Customers who are other bodies associated with Fire and Rescue activities with similar requirements, including: the Ministry of Defence Fire Service; Department of Communities and Local Government; Fire and Rescue Authorities in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the States of Jersey and Guernsey, Isle of Man, the Fire Service College, Ambulance Services in the UK, Airport Fire Services in the UK, Metropolitan Police and the British Transport Police.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS

The 'Restricted' procedure was followed in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended). The Restricted procedure follows two stages, firstly to pre-qualify Potential Providers and secondly to invite a limited number of Potential Providers to submit tenders, selected as a result of the evaluation of the initial pre-qualifying submissions.

Tender documentation was prepared, including draft Terms and Conditions for the Framework Agreement and draft Terms and Conditions for subsequent Call-off Contracts. The User Requirements and Technical Specification compiled by the CFOA Respiratory Equipment Group form the basis of the specification for these goods and services.

A Contract Notice (2012/S 127-210782) was despatched to OJEU on 2nd July 2012 and the tender opportunity advertised through the Bluelight e-tendering portal later on the same date.

Three Potential Providers submitted completed pre-qualifying questionnaires with supporting documents. These were evaluated, under due diligence, to establish that the Potential Providers have the capacity, capability and resources to provide the required goods/service under the Framework Agreement and were suitable, in terms of financial stability, organisation structure, processes and procedures and compliance with legislative requirements. All three Potential Providers were assessed as suitable to invite to tender.

All three Potential Providers submitted tender responses by 12 noon on 3rd December 2012 that being the deadline set for responses.

The Evaluation of the Invitation to Tender was based on establishing whether the Potential Providers could supply equipment to meet the User Requirements and Technical Specification and services to support the equipment during its operating life.

The tender exercise was concluded in March 2013 and the Framework Agreement established from 1 March 2013 to expire on 28 February 2017.

FRAMEWORK CONTRACTORS

The following Contractors have been included on the Framework Agreement following the evaluation of the tender submissions:

- Draeger Safety UK Ltd
- Interspiro Ltd
- Scott Health and Safety Ltd

BENEFITS OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Establishment of the Framework Agreement will provide benefits to the Participating Services and Participating Customers who access it:

- Reduced resource and time to access products and services (further competition versus full tender in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006)
- Robust Terms and Conditions of Contract, User Requirements and Technical Specification
- Performance monitoring of contracts overall by DSFRS, consolidating customer power in resolving issues and ensuring that innovation is shared with all Participating Services/Customers
- Visibility of pricing of products and services to support budget forecasting
- Transparent and competitive pricing

ROLE OF DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) will be responsible for:

- establishing the Framework Agreement Terms and Conditions, Service Level Agreement and Key Performance Indicators
- providing information relating to the Framework Agreement to Participating Services and Participating Customers
- managing and monitoring the performance of the Contractors against the Service Level Agreement and providing an overview of the Contractors performance against all subsequent Call-off Contracts.
- monitoring the financial stability of the Contractors for the period of the Framework Agreement
- monitoring the certification of Contractors products against the relevant Standard.
- Providing advice, guidance and support to Participating Services and Participating Customers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service would like to acknowledge the following groups and individuals who provided support and commentary during the tender process:

- Luke Malton, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Paul Cregan, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Melanie Walsh, Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

- CFOA National Procurement Board

- CFOA Respiratory Protection Equipment Group

- DCFO Gary Walsh, Chair of the CFOA RPE Group
- Steve Dutton, SE Region Procurement Manager
- Adrian Busby, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Wayne Stringer, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

- Brian Hansford (advice on BS, CEN and ISO standards and content of ITT)

- SM John Colborne, Northamptonshire FRS (advice on certification)

- Bill Brewer, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

- Andrew Potter, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

- And colleagues from within Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service