

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY****MEETING: 16 MARCH 2009****SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT OF SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS****JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, FINANCE OFFICER AND CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY****1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report sets out for the information of Members, the tendering arrangements in respect of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and seeks Authority approval to proceed with the procurement of the equipment.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that approval was given at the Authority meeting on 23 February 2009 to the capital programme, including the provision of £443,200 for the procurement of various items of operational equipment.
- 2.2 The equipment includes replacement of the existing Self Contained Breathing Apparatus which is now in excess of fifteen years old and in terms of its technical capability, has reached the end of its operational life.
- 2.3 Firebuy currently has in place a Framework Agreement for the supply of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- 2.4 The Framework Agreement has been arranged so that is open for use by all Fire and Rescue Authorities, thereby removing the need to undertake a full tendering exercise. As a result, adopting this approach saves the Authority valuable time and associated costs.

3 TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 In the last twelve months, there have been significant technological developments within the field of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. These developments focus on the area of telemetry, a system which enables wireless passage of risk critical information between the breathing apparatus wearer and the safety staff outside the incident. The developments in this area enhance firefighter safety and operational efficiency. It is considered that the telemetry systems currently available will become an essential requirement in the very near future.
- 3.2 As a consequence therefore, significant emphasis has been given within the evaluation to ensuring the successful tenderer is able to support such telemetry provision.

4 TENDERS

4.1 In accordance with the Firebuy Framework Agreement, an invitation to tender for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus was issued to the four suppliers included in the agreement.

4.2 Completed tenders were received from the following companies listed in alphabetical order:

Draeger Safety UK Ltd
Interspiro Ltd
MSA Britain
Scott Health and Safety Ltd

4.3 The list of values of tenders received in ascending order, excluding VAT, is set out below:

£220,180.00
£274,640.00
£288,605.00
£308,378.25
£312,665.00
£332,072.00

4.4 It should be noted that two of the tenderers each submitted two different options.

5 EVALUATION CRITERIA & OUTCOME

5.1 Tender responses were scored against the evaluation criteria used in the original tender by Firebuy. The criteria used to identify the most economically advantageous tender is outlined below:

Suitability of Products offered to meet the operational requirements of the Purchasing Body,
Suitability of Delivery Date / Lead time,
Price (Suppliers Proposal, including product, Training and support costs)
Warranties/Maintenance/Support offered
Proposals for Training
Whole Life Cost Profile (Including Stowage Changes, Compatibility with PPE and Internal Costs)

5.2 Each of the above evaluation criteria were weighted in relation to their independent importance to the breathing apparatus procurement exercise and this weighting criteria was made available to all of the suppliers.

5.3 The subsequent evaluation resulted in Draeger Safety UK Ltd. achieving the highest score based on the above evaluation criteria and thus identified as the most economically advantageous tender.

5.4 It is the recommendation of the project team, supported by the Chief Fire Officer, to procure Self Contained Breathing Apparatus from Draeger Safety UK Ltd, which will fully support a telemetry provision, at a cost of £312,665.00.

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6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Funding for this equipment has been provided for in the capital programme 2009/2010.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This equipment is critical life saving equipment for the protection of firefighters and will support telemetry providing enhanced protection for firefighters.

8 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Nothing in the design or construction of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus should present a barrier to the recruitment of a diverse workforce.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Procuring this equipment would support the Authority's approach to risk management by reducing the potential for harm to operational personnel.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Authority is requested to:-
- i) Endorse the procurement procedure adopted, which utilises a Firebuy framework agreement and:
 - ii) approve acceptance of the most economically advantageous tender from Draeger Safety UK Ltd, Blyth, in the sum of £312,665.00 for the procurement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Authority Report 23 February 2009 Capital Programme 2009/2010.