

## MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	17 OCTOBER 2019	REPORT NO:	CFO/054/19
PRESENTING OFFICER:	DCFO NICK SEARLE		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	PAUL MURPHY	REPORT AUTHOR:	FRANNY HILL
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	LINDSEY SAVAGE RUTH BALLER-WILSON KEV LONGSHAW		
TITLE OF REPORT:	WATER RESCUE PPE		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

### Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members approve the recommendations following the outcome of the tender process for the North West (NW) for Water Rescue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

### Recommendation

2. That Members note the outcome of the tender process; and approve the award of contract for the various lots, to the companies as detailed within Paragraph 5.

### Introduction and Background

3. Following expiry of previous contracts for Water Rescue PPE in August 2019, MFRA undertook a further competition process on behalf of the NW FRS's in June 2019 for a range of Water Rescue PPE items under a YPO (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation) Framework.
4. The specifications for the items were updated to reflect the latest BS EN Standards and circulated to the NW FRS's for comments and approval prior to the commencement of the further competition process.
5. The NW Technical Officers group considered the potential routes to market and agreed to utilise the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) Emergency Response Equipment (ERE) framework as this offered a wide range of suitable suppliers and was considered a more efficient route to market for this procurement, with the alternative being a full EU tender.
6. The agreed weightings for the evaluation of bids was in line with YPO guidelines and published to all bidders at the outset of the further competition.

The high level weightings are detailed below:

Cost – 20%  
Quality – 50%  
Delivery & Customer Service – 20%  
Sustainability – 10%

7. Of the thirteen (13) companies on the framework, seven (7) submitted bids. The bid submissions, along with the product samples, were evaluated by the NW project team, comprising of Technical and Procurement officers.
8. The total estimated spend for a three-year contract using projected requirement figures provided by the NW FRS's is £315,963.00. It is important to note that this potential expenditure is subject to change depending on actual requirements during the life of the contract and has been provided to the bidders with no commitment. Across the Lots, three (3) companies have been successful as detailed below:

NORTHERN DIVER LIMITED

Lot 1A - Standard Drysuits  
Lot 1B - Breathable Drysuits  
Lot 2A - PFD's  
Lot 2B - Life jackets  
Lot 4B - Powered Watercraft Helmet  
Lot 5A - Water Rescue Boots  
Lot 5B - Swift Water Boots  
Lot 6 - Gloves  
Lot 7 - Skull Cap  
Lot 8 - Kit Bag  
Lot 9 - Flood Suit  
Lot 10 - Drysuit Repairs

SURVITEC LIMITED

Lot 3 - 100gm Thermal Undersuits

TYPHOON

Lot 3 - 250gm Thermal Undersuits  
Lot 4A - White Water Safety Helmet

9. Following approval, any NW Authorities requiring Water Rescue PPE will call off this contract for their requirements over the next 3 years. For the duration of the contract MFRA will undertake the contract management for these commodities on behalf of the region.

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## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

10. All specifications for sized products are written to ensure that suppliers are invited to offer as wide a size range as possible, from Extra Small to XXXL, with options for special measures. Size ranges must be as large as possible to accommodate a diverse workforce. Measurements for sizes must also be given. Size and

weight of products (if applicable) are evaluated and scored in the Quality section of the evaluations.

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### **Staff Implications**

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11. The provision of high quality, fit for purpose PPE is essential for operational staff to carry out their duties effectively.

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### **Legal Implications**

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12. The Authority has a duty to ensure compliance with UK and EU procurement legislation. Undertaking a further competition under a National Framework is a compliant route to market widely recognised and in use in the wider public sector.

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### **Financial Implications & Value for Money**

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13. The further competition has been conducted to identify the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) utilising the afore-mentioned evaluation criteria and weightings to ensure value for money is obtained.

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### **Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications**

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14. The Water rescue PPE has been specified in accordance with HSE guidance and MFRA policies and approved by the appropriate Technical Officers in the NW.

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### **Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters***

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15. Provides high specification water PPE for our firefighters to complete water rescue incidents.

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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N/A

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### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

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FRS: Fire & Rescue Service  
BS: British Standard  
YPO: Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation  
ERE : Emergency Response Equipment  
EU : European Union  
CSR : Corporate Social Responsibility  
HSE : Health & Safety Executive

PPE : Personal Protective Equipment  
NW : North West