



Subway Secure Communication Network – award of contract

Committee Strategy and Programmes

Date of meeting 24 June 2016

Date of report 8 June 2016

Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. Object of report

To recommend the Committee approve the award of contract for the supply, technical support and maintenance of a secure communication system for Subway to Airwave Solutions Ltd.

2. Background

2.1 Introduction

The Emergency Services Network (ESN) is the secure communication network used by the UK Government for inter-communication between the three emergency services: Fire & Rescue, Police and Ambulance. The network enables public safety agencies and the emergency services to communicate directly, immediately, clearly and securely. This network is not available for consumer or commercial use but can be used under licence by public transport authorities.

The ESN hardware and services are currently provided, operated and maintained by Airwave (a Motorola company).

In December 2015, the Government awarded the ESN user services and mobile services contracts to Motorola Solutions and EE Limited, respectively. These new contracts will phase-in a new communication service that will incorporate 4G connectivity. The Government's programme will be phased in and a new communication service will be effective from 1 January 2020.

2.2 Needs summary

The current SPT contract with Airwave is due to expire shortly. This is a safety critical service that is vital to maintain Subway operation. Without this, SPT would have no secure method of communication to control safe operation or liaise directly with the authorities in the event of an emergency.

As such, continuity of the current Subway Airwave system/service must be maintained until the rollout of the new national ESN on 1 January 2020. As this service is provided by a sole supplier then a negotiated approach was necessary.

2.3 Requirement summary

The requirement is to supply, support and maintain radio handsets and the secure communication system on which they operate, including all hardware. This is a fully managed licenced radio terminal service, with hand held devices, training, installation and maintenance included, security, resilience, responsiveness, interoperability, reliability and voice clarity.

2.4 Aims and objectives

The overall aims and objectives of this supply provision are:

- To ensure all communications continue to be secure and reliable
- To secure the source of supply of this safety critical service
- To sustain service during the transition period until 1 January 2020.

3. Outline of proposals

3.1 Scope of supply

The full requirement specification was determined via an existing system audit carried out in December 2015. The scope of supply in order to maintain current operation is:

- Provision, installation and maintenance of 111 handheld radios and 35 vehicle-fitted radios
- Provision, installation and maintenance of Fibre Coverage
- Provision, installation and maintenance of control system hardware
- Provision, installation and upgrades of software
- All associated licencing, training and technical support

The scope of supply is until 31 December 2019 and it will also include the option to call off additional handsets.

3.2 Procurement process

In order to co-terminate with the ESN Government contract, SPT entered into negotiations to establish opportunities for efficiencies and cost saving, in conjunction with securing the on-going service supply for the defined period of 43 months.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the annual cost for the current supply contract was £435,138.40, which would equal £1,559,235.18 over the next 43 months.

Based on the established scope requirements following the December 2015 audit, SPT was able to negotiate the rates and charges in the following table for year 1 of the new agreement.

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Service	Quantity	Total Connection Charge	Total Monthly Service Charge
Airwave Direct Core - Handheld	101	£15,150.00	£4,942.35
Airwave Direct Core - Train Fitted	35	£7,000.00	£1,712.69
Fibre Scheme Special Coverage	1	n/a	£15,441.33
Zetron Control Room Maintenance	1	n/a	£3,262.50
Zetron Control Room software upgrade	1	£9,650.00	n/a
Zetron Control Room hardware upgrade including switches, PC's and Monitors	2	£25,947.65	n/a
Airwave Direct Sepura personal charger	111	£2,828.00	n/a
Airwave Direct Sepura desktop charger	10	£3,690.00	n/a
Implementation management, on-site implementation, confirmation testing and Documentation	1	£22,438.35	n/a
Installation Charges	35	£3,000	n/a

Total Charges

£89,704.00	£25,358.87

For the 43 month period of the supply agreement the total cost will be £1,180,135.41.

Compared against last year's spend, this represents a saving of £379,099.77 over the 43 month term of the agreement.

The term negotiated for the agreement is as follows:

- Agreement to allow flexibility to review/change the scope of supply as the operational needs and Subway Modernisation programme (and in particular the Rolling Stock and Control project) develop.

4. Conclusion

The price negotiation with Airwave has resulted in saving significant savings against the previous years' costs but more importantly it will guarantee the supply for the secure communications for the next 43 months.

5. Further information

This new contract allows flexibility for SPT to review our communication system in line with Subway modernisation.

6. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to approve the award of a contract to Airwave Solutions Ltd for the Secure Communications network with a contract budget of up to £1,180,135.41 (excluding VAT).

7. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>None identified.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None identified.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>The forecast costs of the secure communication system for Subway are contained within the Subway revenue budget.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None identified.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None identified.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>Failure to secure agreement could lead to a loss of secure communications system for the Subway.</i>

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