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Planning

AI Safety Institute Commercial Framework - Early Market Engagement Opportunity

DESNZ & DSIT Group Commercial

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-001340

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04d030

Published 15 January 2025, 12:15pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

DESNZ & DSIT Group Commercial

London

Email

dsit.dttgcbp@dsit.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-science-innovation-and-technology>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

AI Safety Institute Commercial Framework - Early Market Engagement Opportunity

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute (AISi), a directorate of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) intends to create a new multi-supplier Commercial Agreement for the provision of Frontier AI Research Services framework under the new Procurement Act 2023 regulations.

The purpose of this PIN is to provide advance notice to the market that DSIT is considering undertaking a tender exercise to set up this commercial agreement and would like to invite Suppliers to a virtual early market engagement session on this proposed procurement.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £19,500,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

We are keen to hear from Suppliers who provide Frontier AI model evaluations, research, testing, code creation, human studies across the following domains:

Science (Chemistry and Biology)

Cyber Misuse

Red-Teaming and Safeguards

Criminal Misuse and Criminology

Persuasion and Deception

Wider Societal Impacts of AI

Autonomous Systems

Survey Participant Provision

Multi-Modal AI Research (visual, audio)

We are currently not looking for Suppliers in the following areas due to the number of other routes to market available:

AI Digital Services

AI Deployment

AI Integration

AI Licencing

We intend to hold a first meeting with interested suppliers on 6th February 2025 at 15:00 (UK Time) (subject to change).

DSIT invites suggestions and feedback from this session, as these activities will help inform thinking and shape a future procurement strategy. The provisional agenda is

below:

Welcome and introduction to AISI

Overview on how to sell to AISI (+ Government Procurement Reform)

AISI's proposal for the 'Frontier AI Research Services' new commercial agreement

Supplier feedback and suggestions

General Q&A

If you are interested in this potential opportunity, DSIT would like to engage with you. Please contact us by emailing dsit.dttgcbp@dsit.gov.uk with your company details. Following confirmation of company details and contact information, an 'MS Teams' invite will be circulated for the market engagement event. We would ask that you have a maximum of 2 attendees from each organisation.

Presentation slides will be made available after the session(s).

Useful resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-act-2023-short-guides/the-procurement-act-2023-a-short-guide-for-suppliers-html>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/procurement-act-2023-guidance-documents>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-act-2023-guidance-documents-define-phase/guidance-frameworks-html>

*** This is early market engagement for a potential opportunity. The Department is not obligated to run a procurement following this activity and is not liable for any costs associated with participating in this early engagement. ***

Additional Information:

The Department for Science Innovation and Technology uses the Jaggaer eSourcing Portal as its eSourcing tool. Jaggaer will be used for this competition should it come to

tender. To register as a supplier, please visit <https://beisgroup.ukp.app.jaggaer.com/> and follow the instructions to register as a supplier.

Services will be delivered primarily to the United Kingdom, with some limited requirements overseas.

The estimated total value is an indicative value over the lifetime of the framework (3 years), including any options to extend.

The Cyber Essentials scheme is mandatory for Central Government Contracts which involve handling personal information and providing certain ICT products and services. The Government is taking steps to further reduce the levels of cyber risk in its supply chain through the Cyber Essentials scheme <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberessentials/overview>. The scheme defines a set of control which, when properly implemented, will provide organisations with basic protection from the most prevalent forms of threat coming from the internet.

To participate in this potential procurement, bidders will be required to demonstrate that they are Cyber Essentials compliant for the services under and in connection with the procurement.

The services that arise from this from this framework will involve the supplier holding material that has been assigned a protective marking under the Government Security Classifications scheme (April 2014) of OFFICIAL/SENSITIVE. Bidders will be required to implement their solution in accordance with the Framework Agreement Schedule, "Security Requirement and Plan", to meet Framework Agreement requirements. This documentation will be released at the ITT stage.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 May 2025

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes