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Planning

Unlocking CHERI adoption

DESNZ & DSIT Group Commercial

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003500

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04db19

Published 3 February 2025, 3:51pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

DESNZ & DSIT Group Commercial

London

Email

stuart.smith@dsit.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.gov.uk

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Unlocking CHERI adoption

Reference number

prj_4961

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 purpose of this PIN is to provide advance notice that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology is considering undertaking a tender exercise to set up a new project related to technology development and adoption of CHERI (Capability Hardware Enhanced RISC Instructions).

The department wants to understand how we can convene a critical mass of businesses and funding to unblock the adoption pathway for CHERI and achieve adoption in real world applications at scale

The department invites suggestions and feedback from the market on the scope of the Unlocking CHERI adoption project, including its lots and structure.

<https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/research/security/ctsrd/cheri/>

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £800,000

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

Main site or place of performance

UK

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The purpose of this PIN is to provide advance notice that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology is considering undertaking a tender exercise to set up a new project related to technology development and adoption of CHERI (Capability Hardware Enhanced RISC Instructions).

Deploying technology that is secure by design reduces the risk of losses from cyber attacks, cuts the cost of ownership with fewer security updates, and creates competitive advantage, allowing businesses to create innovative systems built on secure foundations.

The Digital Security by Design programme has built and proven the efficacy of a CHERI, a new microprocessor architecture, securing systems at the silicon level, closing the door on security vulnerabilities that are exploited in 70% of cyber attacks.

The savings, benefits and competitive edge offered by CHERI can only be achieved once the design is adopted into the mainstream production environment. To realise the benefits

of CHERI in a timely manner, additional effort will be required for its adoption.

The department wants to understand how we can convene a critical mass of businesses and funding to unblock the adoption pathway for CHERI and achieve adoption in real world applications at scale.

The department invites suggestions and feedback from the market on the scope of the Unlocking CHERI adoption project, including its lots and structure.

Once available the Invitation to tender documentation for this procurement may be freely accessed from the Department via the Jaggaer portal

The lotting structure of this framework will be determined following market engagement.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

16 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