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Planning

WLT: Weapon Load Trainer

Defence Equipment and Support

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-003912

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05970d

Published 16 January 2026, 1:56pm

Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

Scope

Reference

715631469

Description

Background:

A Weapon Load Trainer (WLT) formed part of the original Eurofighter training solution; this was never implemented by the RAF. The initial concept envisaged integrating the RAF Typhoon Weapons Load Training Team with the Weapons Training Team within the Typhoon Training Facility (TTF). The planned concept of operations for a WLT will be for the device to be jointly operated between the TTF and the Weapon Load Training Cell (WLTC). TTF delivers all initial Weapon Load (WL) training, with the WLTC responsible for all WL recertification.

The current weapon load training solution requires the transfer of activity from the controlled, purpose-built TTF environment to operational settings. These operational settings are less conducive to initial learning, introduce additional distractions and safety risks, and rely on opportunistic use of maintenance events. Such one-off training opportunities limit practice to mastery and constrain formative and summative assessment against the Required Performance Standard, resulting in repeated, ad hoc exercises to achieve compliance.

Preparation of Forward Available Fleet (FAF) aircraft for training purposes, and their subsequent recovery to operational configuration, is resource-intensive and increases maintenance burden and potential for repair. Additionally, FAF aircraft are routinely subject to operational commitments, which can disrupt or invalidate planned training.

Requirement:

This requirement outlines the procurement of WLTs for both Main Operating Bases (MOBs), designed to meet Armament Carriage & Installation Systems standards and the broader requirements of the WLTCs.

The primary driver for this acquisition is the increasing demand on forward environments to provide training resources, coupled with growing pressure on Typhoon Force training facilities, assets, and resources due to force growth and export training requirements. Procuring one WLT, with an aim to procure a second, will significantly reduce the impact of training on operational environments and the FAF, whilst ensuring a consistent training output aligned with aircraft configurations at both MOBs.

High-fidelity WLT Ground Training Aids will support all initial and re-certification weapon load training. The requirement seeks the procurement of one standalone WLT initially, with the potential for a second WLT subject to affordability.

As part of the Typhoon Force disposal strategy, two Tranche 1 Typhoon airframes have been made available for use by the manufacturer in constructing the WLTs, should they choose to do so. This approach offers environmental benefits by reducing the impact of

standard aircraft disposal and may also provide efficiencies for the manufacturer. Please note that this will necessitate secure facilities and stringent security measures to safeguard the airframes and associated equipment throughout the process.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 31 March 2026 to 31 March 2028
- 2 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80650000 - Training and simulation in aircrafts, missiles and spacecrafts

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

30 January 2026

Engagement process description

Through this Preliminary Market Engagement Notice (PMEN), the Ministry of Defence seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified suppliers. Any interested supplier with the experience, capability and capacity to deliver this service are asked to register their interest by contacting the buyer at the details provided in this notice via DSP only.

Further market engagement shall be driven by the level of interest received subject to the Authority's decision this will be updated via FTS by the Contracting Authority.

This PMEN has been published for the purposes of Market Sounding and to assist in the determination of the procurement strategy. No formal procurement has been launched. This is not a commitment by the UK Ministry of Defence to place a contract or launch a tender in the future.

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Procedure

Special regime

Defence and security

Contracting authority

Defence Equipment and Support

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PVRL-5831-GLMM

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Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-equipment-and-support>

Region: UKK12 - Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Organisation type: Public authority - central government